AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-21. (Cancelled).

22. (Currently amended) An isolated polypeptide having at least 80% amino acid sequence identity to:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 20 (~~of SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 20 (~~of SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 20 (~~of SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~;, wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 77-310; or

(d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 20 (SEQ ID NO:45), lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~

~~(e)~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203966, and

wherein said isolated polypeptide has the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation.

23. (Currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 22 having at least 85% amino acid sequence identity to:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 20 (~~of SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 20 (~~of SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 20 (~~of SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~, wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 77-310; or

(d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 20 (SEQ ID NO:45), lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~

~~(e)~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203966; and

wherein said isolated polypeptide has the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation.

24. (Currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 22 having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity to:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 20 (~~of SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 20 (~~of SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 20 (~~of SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~, wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 77-310; or

(d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 20 (SEQ ID NO:45), lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~

~~(e)~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203966; and

wherein said isolated polypeptide has the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation.

25. (Currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 22 having at least 95% amino acid sequence identity to:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 20 (~~of SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 20 (~~of SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 20 (~~of SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~, wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 77-310; or

(d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 20 (SEQ ID NO:45), lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~

~~(e)~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203966; and

wherein said isolated polypeptide has the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation.

26. (Currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 22 having at least 99% amino acid sequence identity to:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 20 (~~of SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 20 (~~of SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 20 (~~of SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~, wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 77-310; or

(d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 20 (SEQ ID NO:45), lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~

~~(e)~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203966; and

wherein said isolated polypeptide has the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation.

27. (Currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 20 (~~of SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 20 (~~of SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 20 (~~of SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~, wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 77-310; or

(d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 20 (SEQ ID NO:45), lacking its associated signal peptide; or~~

~~(e)~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203966.

28. (Currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 27 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 20 (~~of SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~.

29. (Currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 27 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 20 (~~SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide.

30. (Currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 27 comprising the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 20 (~~of SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~, wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 77-310.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 27 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203966.

33. (Previously presented) A chimeric polypeptide comprising a polypeptide according to Claim 22 fused to a heterologous polypeptide.

34. (Previously presented) The chimeric polypeptide of Claim 33, wherein said heterologous polypeptide is an epitope or an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.